



WITNESSES CLOSE MAMMOTH SESSION-Atlanta: About 50 thousand members of the Jehovah's Witnesses closed an eight day convention in Atlanta July 13, hearing F. W. Franz vice president of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society make a keynote address. (UPI).

TWO MINUTES WITH THE BIBLE

BY CORNELIUS R. STAM, PRES.
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THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CALVARY

Three times in Romans 5 we read that Christ died for us. Verse 6 tells us that He died for us in our weakness. Verse 8 that He died for us in our sin, and Verse 10 that He died for us in our rebellion.

First, Verse 6 says: "For when we were yet WITHOUT STRENGTH, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

Men sometimes try to make themselves acceptable to God by human effort, but they never succeed. We can't walk or run to heaven, we can't fly there, we can't climb there--- not even by doing good works, for good works is what we ought to do, and we should not expect them to counter-balance our sinful thoughts and deeds. Anyways, Heaven is God's and He says we cannot gain it by works. "For by grace are ye saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8,9).

Next, Rom. 5:8 says: "God commendeth His love towards us, in that, while we were yet

SINNERS, Christ died for us,"

Many people feel shut out of heaven, not merely because of a sense of helplessness, but because of a sense of sinfulness and condemnation. To such God proclaims the glad news that "Christ died for sinners," and "came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15). At Calvary He paid the just penalty for sin--for the sins of all mankind--so that we, by faith, might be "justified freely by God's grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24).

But Rom. 5:10 goes even farther, offering hope and grace to those who have resisted God's grace and rejected His Son, for here the greatest Christ-rejector of all time, now gloriously saved and changed, declares: "When we were SINNERS, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son" (Rom. 5:10).

And so the helpless, the sinful, yes, and the rebellion, can find acceptance with God if they will turn from their sin and failure to Him. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

RELIGION and RACE

REPARATION CONSIDERATION

CANTERBURY, England-The 120-member central committee of the World Council of Churches will spend time during its coming meeting, Aug. 12-23, discussing the report of "reparations," which its Consultation on Racism passed on last May. In addition to "reparations," the committee will also explore the use of economic sanctions against white-minority ruled nations, and the question of support to resistance movements.

BLAMES MILITANTS

NEW YORK - Dr. J. H. Jackson, president, National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., declared last week that Black separatists "are much to blame as President Nixon is for a slow-down in integration." He particularly singled out the Black studies-dormitories protests and the Black Manifesto, of which he said, "I do not believe the church (NBC) can follow the National Council of Churches if it follows James Forman's demands. We accept the fellowship but not the leadership of the council."

MINISTRIES SECRETARY

BOSTON - The Rev. James H. Hargett, Los Angeles, has been named secretary for Black ministries of the United Church of Christ, with the responsibility for recruiting, training and placing of Black ministers in local congregations, on national and regional agencies' staffs and church-related institutions. Pastor of the Church of the Christian Fellowship, and an alumnus of Johnson C. Smith University, he will assume his new post on Sept. 1.

CHALLENGE

WASHINGTON - The convocation of the United Methodist Theological Faculties, meeting at Wesley Theological seminary recently, heard Dr. Ed Evans E. Crawford, Jr., dean of chapel, Howard University, describe the major challenge to the present-day church as being "voluntary servitude." Noting that many theological schools "are responding rather than reacting," he said, "Being Black is not a sudden discovery, but there is an actual experience of being born again when you accept yourself and your blackness."

REAPPOINTED

NEW YORK - Bishop Prince A. Taylor, Jr., Princeton, N. J., has been re-elected president of Religion in American Life (RIAL), at the organization's recent annual meeting. RIAL is an interfaith agency of the major church and synagogue organizations for the preparation, distribution and promotion of national mass media religious advertising and related community action materials.

basically composed of some 40 members of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra.

Sponsors of the event are the Richmond Recreation Department and Local 123 of the American Federation of Musicians.

The first half of the program will contain the "Egmont Overture" by Beethoven, "Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana" by Mascagni, and "Overture Die Meistersinger Von Nurnberg" by Wagner.

The last half of the program will consist of "Russian and Ludmilla Overture" by Glinka, "The Music Man--Symphonic Impressions" by Willson and Hayman, "Jamaican Rumba" by Benjamin, and "Porgy and Bess Selections" by Gershwin and Bennett.

Featured singers in the Porgy and Bess number are mezzo soprano Inez Matthews, former Broadway leading lady and member of the VSC music faculty; and Dr. Eugene T. Simpson, baritone-bass, director of choral activities at VSC.

MEDITATION

A SERMONETTE
BY COLIN DOUGLAS

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?" Matt. 7:3.

Most of us experience times in our lives when we feel slighted. We feel shut out from a group of persons or a clique in our neighborhood or organization. And we tend to take a critical attitude toward these other persons who seem to be enjoying themselves more than we are. At such times we magnify the trivial and overlook the important. We think of others in the light of what they are failing to do for us, instead of what we can do for them. We allow envy to blind us to the high goal of helpfulness and harmony set for us by God.

It is at such times that we should make the supreme effort to switch ourselves from condemnation to commendation, and from criticism to compassion. We need to keep our minds on happy, harmonious things, instead of on apparent inhar-

monies. We must remember that life isn't a perpetual state of receiving good things. We have to do our share of giving, too, remembering always that our reception of happiness is in proportion to our giving of happiness.

Remember that the Divine Love of God is yours, and yours to share with all other persons. This love of God can sustain and protect you wherever you go, and it can make all that you do have purpose and meaning. Inbued with this love of God, you can look out at the world with eyes of love, and you are not affected by what you have formerly termed slights, insults, or affronts. By bringing God into the foreground of your thoughts, your irritation and pique have vanished like darkness before the sun. You know that this is your Father's world, that it is a good world, and that you are co-operating with God to keep it so.

"Let all those that seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee," --Psalms 40:16.

Musis Head At VSC Will Conduct Richmond Orchestra

PETERESBURG - Dr. F. Nathaniel Gatlin, head of the music department at Virginia State College, will make his third consecutive annual appearance

as guest conductor of the Richmond Concert Orchestra on July 21 at 8:30 p.m. in Dogwood Dell amphitheatre.

The Concert Orchestra is

Church Chuckles by CARTWRIGHT



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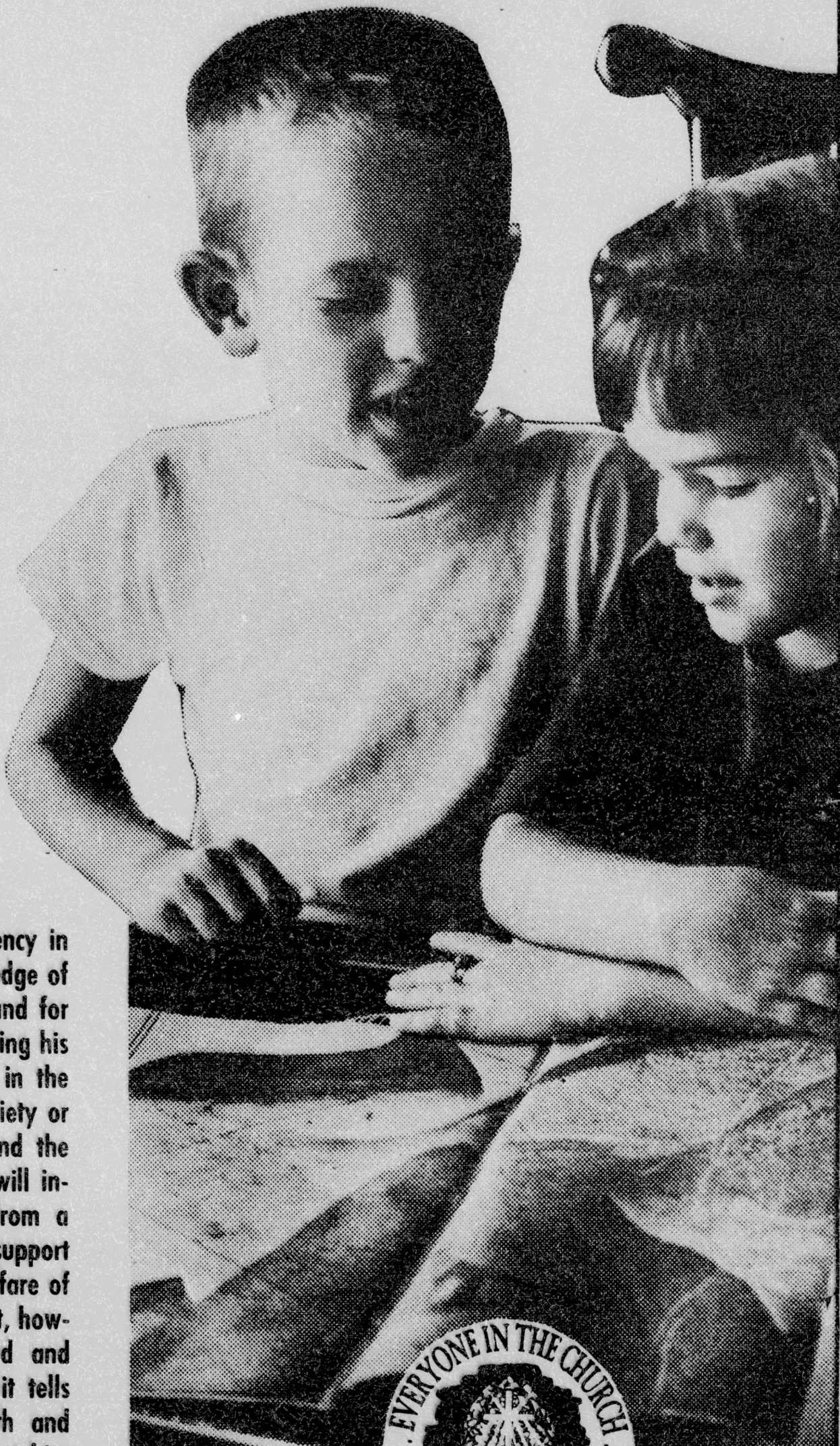
THE JOY OF SHARING

There is pleasure in doing things with others. It may be looking at a picture magazine, or riding toys, or for parents it may even be sharing knowledge of the day's events that bring joy.

God's people have a desire to share with you in the greatest joy, that of worshiping together in God's House. **ATTEND CHURCH**

The Church is God's appointed agency in this world for spreading the knowledge of His love for man and of His demand for man to respond to that love by loving his neighbor. Without this grounding in the love of God, no government or society or way of life will long persevere and the freedoms which we hold so dear will inevitably perish. Therefore, even from a selfish point of view, one should support the Church for the sake of the welfare of himself and his family. Beyond that, however, every person should uphold and participate in the Church because it tells the truth about man's life, death and destiny; the truth which alone will set him free to live as a child of God.

Coleman Adv. Serv.



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